



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street
Sacramento
California 95814

John Chiang
Chair
Fourth District

660 South Figueroa,
Suite 2050
Los Angeles, CA 90017

(213) 239-8506
(213) 239-8753 Fax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 13, 2005

Contact: Tom Waldman

Hon. John Chiang's Office

(213) 239-8506

Web Site: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/>

**State Board of Equalization Chair John Chiang Co-Sponsors Property Tax
Workshop on Legal Rights of Domestic Partners and Unmarried Couples**

John Chiang, Chair of the California State Board of Equalization, has joined with the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center to host a workshop on estate planning and related legal issues for registered domestic partners. The event will be held this Wednesday, June 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Village at Ed Gould Plaza, Renberg Theatre, 1125 N. McFadden Place, Los Angeles.

The program will discuss a new state law that expands the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of registered domestic partners and their families. Other topics to be addressed include two recent Property Tax Rule amendments that broaden the exclusion from property tax reassessment for transfers between registered domestic partners in a manner similar to the exclusion for married couples.

"I am pleased to be working with the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center to explain tax and other issues related to registered domestic partners," said Chiang, who made introductory remarks at the workshop. "With recent changes in the law, it's imperative that we keep the public informed." Carole Ruwart from the BOE in Sacramento will speak on property tax issues relating to domestic partners.

Diane Abbitt, an estate planning attorney expert affiliated with the Gay and Lesbian Center, is the other featured speaker.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax commission. The Board collects nearly \$42 million annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property tax.

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